

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01

CEA-01 COME-00 FRB-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 IO-10 /106 W

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R 231543Z JUL 75

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9356

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 946

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, EAID, EEC, PO, YO, MT, CE, MO, IS, AG,
SY, JOLE, EG,

SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, JULY 22, 1975: HIGH-
LIGHTS

REF: EC BRUSSELS 6564 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AT THEIR LAST COUNCIL MEETING BEFORE
THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS SPENT THE BULK
OF THEIR TIME PREPARING A COMMUNITY POSITION ON RAW MATERIALS
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FOR THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL

ASSEMBLY IN NEW YORK. THEIR DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT ARE REPORTED SEPTEL. IN ADDITION, THE MINISTERS DISCUSSED RELATIONS WITH THE MAGHREB COUNTRIES, WITH MALTA AND WITH THE MASHRAQ COUNTRIES. NO DECISIONS WERE REACHED AND THE MINISTERS WILL RETURN TO THE SUBJECT AT THEIR NEXT COUNCIL MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 15 AND 16. IN OTHER ACTIONS, THE MINISTERS SIGNED A COMMERCIAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH SRI LANKA AND AN AGREEMENT EXPANDING THE BUDGETARY POWERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND CREATING A EUROPEAN AUDIT COURT. THE MINISTERS ALSO HELD A BRIEF DISCUSSION ON EC RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA AND HEARD A REPORT FROM ITALIAN COUNCIL PRESIDENT RUMOR ON HIS JULY 18 MEETING WITH PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER ANTUNES IN ROME. END SUMMARY.

2. PORTUGAL: ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AND EC COUNCIL PRESIDENT RUMOR READ TO HIS COLLEAGUES THE TEXT OF A LETTER RECEIVED IN ROME SEVERAL DAYS AGO FROM PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER ANTUNES. ANTUNES REPORTEDLY STATED THAT, DUE TO CHANGES IN THE GOVERNMENT IN LISBON, HE WOULD BE UNABLE TO MEET WITH THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS IN BRUSSELS ON JULY 22 (EC BRUSSELS 6565). WE UNDERSTAND THERE WAS NO SUBSTANTIAL DISCUSSION BY THE MINISTERS OF EITHER THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN PORTUGAL OR OF POSSIBLE COMMUNITY FINANCIAL AID.

3. RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA: THE MINISTERS BRIEFLY REVIEWED THE COMMUNITY'S POSITION FOR THE JUNE 24 EC-YUGOSLAV JOINT COMMISSION MEETING IN BRUSSELS. THE GERMANS REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THEY WERE STILL UNABLE TO AGREE TO A FINANCIAL PROTOCOL TO THE EXISTING EC-YUGOSLAV AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD GRANT THE YUGOSLAVS ACCESS TO EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK (EIB) FUNDS (SEE BONN 11862). THE GERMANS SAID THEY WERE ALSO UNABLE TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THE YUGOSLAVS' DESIRES REGARDING THE SOCIAL SECURITY AND EMPLOYMENT QUESTIONS DEALT WITH IN THE "MANPOWER" SECTION OF THE PRESENT AGREEMENT.

4. MALTA: THE EC COMMISSION REPORTED TO THE MINISTERS ON THE STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH MALTA. THE MALTESE HAVE REJECTED THE COMMISSION OFFER OF A FINANCIAL PROTOCOL TOTALING APPROXIMATELY \$28 MILLION OVER FIVE YEARS AND HAVE INSTEAD DEMANDED APPROXIMATELY \$40 MILLION FOR THE SAME PERIOD. THE COUNCIL, WHILE NOT APPROVING ANY INCREASE IN THE SIZE OF THE FINANCIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROTOCOL, CHARGED THE COMMISSION WITH RESUMING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE MALTESE AFTER THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS. A UK SOURCE HAS EXPLAINED THAT ANY CAPITULATION OF THE COMMUNITY TO THE MALTESE AT THIS TIME WOULD RISK A ROUND OF FURTHER DEMANDS FROM THE OTHER MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES.

5. MAGHREB NEGOTIATIONS: THE COMMISSION REPORTED TO THE COUNCIL ON THE STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MAGHREB COUNTRIES

(ALGERIA, TUNISIA, MOROCCO) AND ON THE REMAINING ISSUES HOLDING UP AGREEMENT. WE UNDERSTAND THERE WAS LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF THESE ISSUES WITH MOST PARTICIPANTS TAKING THE VIEW THAT NOTHING FURTHER COULD BE DONE BEFORE THE FALL. THE COMMISSION DID CONFIRM, HOWEVER, THAT IN VIEW OF RECENT DEMANDS PUT FORWARD BY THE MAGHREB COUNTRIES, IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE COMPLETED BEFORE EXPIRATION OF THE CURRENT AGREEMENTS ON AUGUST 30. AS A RESULT, THE COUNCIL AGREED TO THE EXTENSION FOR A LIMITED TIME OF THE TEMPORARY TRADE ARRANGEMENTS NOW IN FORCE. THIS EXTENSION WILL BE FORMALLY ADOPTED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS VIA THE WRITTEN PROCEDURE.

6. RELATIONS WITH THE MASHRAQ COUNTRIES: THE MINISTERS BRIEFLY CONSIDERED THE FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MASHRAQ COUNTRIES (EGYPT, JORDAN, SYRIA AND LEBANON). THEY DID NOT AGREE, AS THE COMMISSION HAD REQUESTED, TO MODIFY THE COMMISSION'S MANDATE TO INCLUDE A FINANCIAL PROTOCOL. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, DISCUSSIONS FOCUSED ON THE SLOWDOWN IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MAGHREB COUNTRIES AND ON THE EFFECT THIS WOULD HAVE ON BEGINNING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MASHRAQ. NO FURTHER ACTION IS EXPECTED ON THIS MATTER UNTIL MID-SEPTEMBER.

7. FINANCIAL AID TO EGYPT: WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE BRIEF DISCUSSION RELATING TO FINANCIAL AID TO THE MASHRAQ COUNTRIES UNDER THE EC GLOBAL MEDITERRANEAN POLICY, OUR SOURCES INDICATE THAT THE MINISTERS DID NOT DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE EC FINANCIAL AID TO EGYPT.

8. SRI LANKA: THE MINISTERS TOOK TIME OUT FROM THEIR COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS TO SIGN A COMMERCIAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EC AND SRI LANKA. (DETAILS OF THIS AGREEMENT WERE REPORTED IN USEC A-133).

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9. INCREASED BUDGETARY POWERS FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: THE FOREIGN MINISTERS SIGNED AN AGREEMENT MODIFYING THE EXISTING EC TREATIES AND ENLARGING THE BUDGETARY POWERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND CREATING A EUROPEAN AUDIT COURT (COUR DES COMPTES). FOR BACKGROUND SEE EC BRUSSELS A-318, OCT. 18, 1974 AND EC BRUSSELS 9441, DECEMBER, 1974. (THE TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT WILL BE SENT TO RPE/SALISBURY BY POUCH).

10. THE EC COUNCIL NOW BEGINS ITS SUMMER RECESS. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS NEXT MEET IN COUNCIL SESSION IN BRUSSELS ON SEPTEMBER 15 AND 16. PRIOR TO THAT, THE MINISTERS WILL MEET UNDER THE HEADING OF POLITICAL COOPERATION IN VENICE ON SEPTEMBER 11. MORRIS

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